

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA
MINUTES**

**Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308**

**January 17, 2013
9:00 a.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Johnny Floyd, Chairman
Jay Shaw
Sam Wellborn
Robert Brown
Emory McClinton
Rudy Bowen
Jim Cole
Emily Dunn
Don Grantham
Jeff Lewis
Dana Lemon
Bobby Parham

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Keith Golden, Commissioner
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer
Karlene Barron, Director of
Communications
Kimberly King, Director of Equal
Employment Opportunity
Meg Pirkle, Director of Permits and
Operations

Todd Long, Deputy Commissioner
Russell McMurry, Chief Engineer
Matt Cline, General Counsel
Carol Comer, Director of Division of
Intermodal
Toby Carr, Director of Planning
Angela Alexander, Director of
Organizational Performance

Chairman Johnny Floyd called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and called for a moment of silence for the Pane family. Jeff Lewis gave the invocation.

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2012 meetings. Sam Wellborn made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2012 meetings, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously approved.*

Bobby Hilliard, Program Control Administrator, presented the projects proposed for the February 2013 Letting for approval.* Hilliard stated there are 28 projects advertised in the February Letting, which represents 23 Georgia DOT contracts.

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve the projects proposed for the February 2013 Letting. Robert Brown made a motion to approve the projects proposed for the February 2013 Letting, seconded by Sam Wellborn and unanimously approved.

Karlene Barron, Director of Communications, highlighted the accomplishments of the Department in regards to the Governments Road Improvement Program (GRIP). GRIP is a system of proposed economic developmental highways in Georgia. The program was originally adopted in 1989 by the Georgia General Assembly. Originally consisting of 12 corridors with 2,485 miles of roadway, including 113 miles of truck access routes, the system expanded in the 2001 and 2005 Legislative sessions when the General Assembly added new routes, including three truck access routes. Currently, there are 19 corridors with 3,307 miles. The total length will continue to vary as alignments, including bypasses and shifts, are determined through the engineering process. There are challenges to face with a system of this magnitude. But still with those challenges, there is much to celebrate in what the Department has accomplished ...

- More than \$29B has been authorized and spent since 1989 to complete or put under construction 2,096 miles of the entire system (which includes the new corridors)
- 83% of the original 12 corridors are complete or under construction, and
- 63 % of all 19 corridors are complete or under construction

Matthew Cline, General Counsel, provided a legal update to the Board. A construction claims case between Assurity and the Department has been dismissed. They were requesting \$8 million in price escalation and other costs associated with a project in Heard County. A case in which Douglas Asphalt Company was requesting \$150 million from the Department was dismissed, and the State Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal in November 2012. A trial date has been set for April 2013 in the Department's claim against Douglas Asphalt for the amount of \$3 million for the I-75 project in Turner County. Douglas Asphalt has a counterclaim requesting \$3 million. The Outdoor Advertising case in Columbus had an argument in front of the Georgia Supreme Court on January 8, 2013. There was no decision made; a decision is anticipated in the summer or fall 2013. The Department had a hearing in the Fulton County Superior Court on January 10, 2013 for its motion to dismiss the Adopt-A-Highway case between the Ku-Klux-Klan and the Department. The judge stated it would be about a month before a ruling was made on the motion.

Keith Golden, Commissioner, gave his monthly report, which included state fund collections; total employment figure for the month ending December 2012; and major projects opened to traffic.* Commissioner Golden stated the Department is preparing for winter weather activity tonight. The Transportation Management Center will be activated this afternoon. Districts 1, 3, 6 and 7 are getting prepared in the event that there is inclement weather. The Department has received 508 applications for the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) program out of the 689 local governments in the state. That makes up \$103 million dollars of the \$110 million dollars in the program. The executive staff has been meeting with various offices to determine their core functions and the various needs to complete their task. A report will be provided to the Board in the next couple of months with a summary of what the Department needs as a minimum

staffing level. Golden gave an update the Board on the status of the Comprehensive Maintenance Contract. Bids were received for the 104 miles of I-75 coming in from the Georgia/Tennessee state line. Some states routes were also blended into that contract.

Commissioner Golden requested that the Committee of the Whole meet more frequently so Board members can be kept abreast of the key ideas, concepts and programs going on within the Department.

Jay Shaw asked how many employees have been promoted within the Department in the past year. Commissioner Golden stated that about 900 employees have been promoted or received increases based on merit based programs. The Department aims to touch the same number of employees again. A pool of candidates for the Director of P3 Program Delivery, Director of Construction and Director of Engineering positions have been gathered, and Russell McMurry will be working with Human Resources to complete the interviews for the three critical positions in the next week and a half.

Commissioner Golden stated that the staff recommends approval for the comprehensive rezoning resolution for the City of Ellijay.* Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve the comprehensive rezoning resolution for the City of Ellijay. Sam Wellborn made a motion to approve the comprehensive rezoning resolution for the City of Ellijay, seconded by Don Grantham and unanimously approved.

Jay Shaw gave a report from the Finance Committee.* There was no action taken at this Committee.

Dana Lemon gave a report from the Intermodal Committee.* A motion was made by Robert Brown, seconded by Emily Dunn and unanimously approved to forward the request for rules and regulations changes to the Administrative Committee. Dana Lemon made a motion for the full board to forward the request for rules and regulations changes to the Administrative Committee, seconded by Don Grantham and unanimously approved.

Don Grantham gave a report from the Legislative Committee.* There was no action taken at this Committee.

Robert Brown gave a report from the Statewide Transportation Planning Committee.* There was no action taken at this Committee.

Chairman Floyd called on Sam Wellborn to give a report on the Committee of the Whole. Wellborn asked Shaw to provide the report. Shaw stated the Committee of the Whole met yesterday and went into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Since the Board selected Commissioner Golden there have been a lot of accomplishments and positive steps made by the Department. It is clear that while there are still challenges ahead, the direction that the Department has taken under Commissioner Golden's leadership is a positive one.

Shaw stated overall, the Commissioner has proved that he is leading this Department and making decisions that are based on solid fundamental principles that are designed to implement the Board's policies and are in the best interest of the State's long-term transportation plans and initiatives. Shaw stated he thinks the Board should continue to encourage and promote the direction that Commissioner Golden is taking the Department.

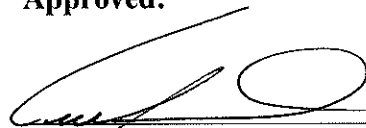
Shaw made a motion for the Board to make an adjustment of 3 percent to the Commissioner's salary, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved.

Sam Wellborn made a request from the Administrative Committee. Rachel Fowler, lobbyist for the Garden Clubs of Georgia, passed away recently. Wellborn requested permission to discuss with the members of the Administrative Committee to consider naming the Wildflower award in memory of Rachel Fowler. A report will be provided in February.

Chairman Floyd stated that Brandon Beach has vacated the State Transportation Board Congressional District 6 seat to accept his responsibilities in the Senate. As a result Chairman Floyd has appointed Jeff Lewis as chair for the P3 Committee.

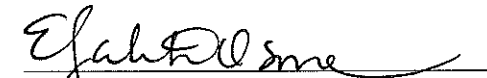
There being no further business, Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to adjourn. Sam Wellborn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Cole and unanimously approved. Chairman Floyd adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Approved:



Johnny Floyd, Chairman

Respectfully submitted:



Elizabeth Osmon, Executive Secretary

***Denotes documentation in file.**